

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS - JULY 21st 1942.

C O N T E N T S

PART I PRIMARY AND EXPORT INDUSTRIES.

Rural Industries - General: Seasonal Conditions. Aust. Food Council. Brief notes.

Wool: Proportion of Merino and Crossbred, 1941/42.

Wheat: Crop conditions. U.S.A. estimates. Prices.

Dairy Produce: Butter produced, May, 1942. Butter and cheese quotas, July. Pay to cream suppliers, June.

Fisheries: 1940/41 Production, Quantity and Value.

Coal: Production and Reserves.

PART II FINANCE AND TRADE.

General: Commonwealth Government Finances, etc.

Retail Prices and the Basic Wage. June Quarter, 1942, "C" Series Index Numbers. Basic Wage from August.

Bond Yields: June, 1942.

Wholesale Trade: April, 1942.

Retail Trade: April, 1942.

Employment: Total employment, N.S.W. April, 1942.
Factory employment, April, 1942.
Government and semi-Government employment, in N.S.W., May, 1942.

Manpower Notes.

Seasonal Conditions. Seasonal conditions generally are very satisfactory. Good rains fell in June. The average rainfall was above normal for the month by 28% in wheat districts and 18% in sheep districts. Dairying districts had the best month since March though rainfall was 27% below normal years. The last area to experience a break in the succession of dry seasons was the Hunter-Manning district when general rain occurred throughout the State in the second week of July. Floods have been experienced in the Central Western Slopes division but no extensive damage has been reported. The weather has delayed shearing operations.

Temperatures have been mostly mild although nights have been cold and heavy frosts in most parts of the State and snow on the highlands were recorded in the first week of July.

Food Supply. The Australian Food Council met on July 10th. It decided to ask the Controller of Materials Supply, Munitions Department, to give the highest possible priority to the construction of dehydration plants. The Council decided also to establish national and State production quotas for primary and secondary foodstuffs and to ask State Departments of Agriculture to break down State quotas into district quotas. The establishment of these quotas is expected to bring to light problems of production which have arisen in regard to manpower, transport, storage, fodder conservation, fertiliser and water supply.

The survey of manpower in rural industries is nearing completion. A special inquiry into the dairying industry is in hand.

The results of these surveys will guide the authorities in providing adequate labour for necessary food production.

The Food Council adopted a report on stimulating egg production. Statistics supplied by the Meat Board showed that the meat position was sound but it is advisable to build up reserve stocks in all States. The Minister for War Organisation of Industry stated that there would be no shortage of food of adequate nutritional value but it might not be possible to cater for all tastes. He advocated the consumption of mutton.

A large quantity of tinned jam which had been subject to a "freezing" order has been released for civilian consumption. About 90 tons of prunes have been made available for infants and invalids.

Food supply has been classified as an essential service and a National Security Regulation provides that workers must remain in the industry if required.

Brief Notes. The late maize crops grown on the North Coast, which usually provide the biggest percentage of the State's crop, experienced very dry conditions during the maturing stages and yields have been poor.

Some of the seed potato crop will not be harvested. There was a shortage of labour and rain caused a growth of weeds before digging could be arranged. No person may enter into a contract for the sale or delivery of potatoes of the Queensland 1942 crop without the consent of the Australian Potato Committee.

There will be no adjustment of the price of lamb for export to Britain. The whole question of meat supplies is being considered by the Commonwealth Government.

Two wine distilleries in N.S.W. are producing 12,000 gallons of alcohol per week from sugar. It is intended to use wheat when methods of extraction are improved.

The Army requires a large quantity of citrus fruit juices. The prices for fruit supplied by growers to juice factories have been determined as £13/10/- per ton for lemons, £12/10/- per ton for grapefruit and £10/10/- for oranges. Growers declare that the prices are unreasonable in view of low yields and increased costs.

Australian tobacco available for appraisement this season is estimated at 6,500,00 lbs., an increase of 30% over last year. The new season's crop may be of slightly better quality than the previous one.

The Minister for Customs stated on 25th June that imports of tobacco were difficult to obtain and Australia was drawing on stocks.

Copra, cocoanut oil and palm kernels available to the United Nations are to be pooled and allocated on an agreed formula. The Commonwealth Government will be responsible for the purchase and shipment of the quantities allocated to Australia. The Director of Materials Supply, Munitions Dept. will control distribution of Australia's supplies.

Wool. The price of prime sheep reached high levels recently due to smaller offerings. Floods caused a sudden drop in marketings but the position has eased again.

The Jute Board will not release any woolpacks for the 1943 shearing. A fair distribution will be made next year.

The proportions of merino and crossbred and greasy and scoured wool marketed in Sydney, in 1941-42 and some earlier seasons were as follows:-

<u>Season</u>	<u>Merino</u>	<u>Crossbred</u>	<u>Greasy</u>	<u>Scoured</u>
	%	%	%	%
1932-33	90.06	9.94	93.99	6.01
1938-39	90.91	9.09	94.93	5.07
1939-40	89.11	10.89	93.17	6.83
1940-41	88.16	11.84	90.87	9.13
1941-42	85.97	14.03	90.75	9.25

The wet weather has delayed shearing. Smaller quantities of wool than expected will be offered at the appraisements due to commence on 27th July, 1942.

Wheat. Favourable crop conditions are reported in nearly all areas. Continued rains prevented further intended sowing and the season is now too far advanced. The Agriculture Dept. has not altered its estimate of the area sown to wheat in N.S.W. (3.3 m. acres). Weeds and black oats are prevalent in many crops.

The United States Department of Agriculture estimates the production of winter wheat at 675 m. bus., Durum wheat at 32 m. bus. and other spring wheat at 196 m. bus. The estimated total of 903 m. bus. is 42 m. bus. below the forecast made in December last.

The U.S. Congress now favours the Administration's proposal to sell 125 m. bus. of Government-held surplus wheat at 85% of "parity" (about 83 cents a bushel) to dairy farmers and other livestock producers.

The price of wheat for flour and meal for export to New Zealand was reduced on 8th July by 3d. to 3/11 $\frac{1}{4}$ per bus. bulk. Wheat for local flour sells at the fixed price of 3/11 $\frac{1}{4}$ per bus.

On the Chicago market July futures averaged (per bus.) 122 $\frac{9}{16}$ in May and 118 $\frac{1}{6}$ cents in June 1942. December futures were quoted in June at an average of 123 $\frac{5}{16}$ cents. On July 15th December futures realised 125 $\frac{1}{8}$ cents.

In June the price in Winnipeg for July futures was 80 $\frac{3}{8}$ cents per bus. On July 15th it was 80 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents.

Commenting on the International Wheat Agreement, the Minister for Commerce said that the Australian Stabilisation Scheme was probably the most comprehensive control exercised by any of the wheat exporting countries. The need for control was apparent. World stocks of wheat were at present sufficient for international requirements for three years.

Dairy Industries. Butter production showed the usual seasonal decline from April to May, 1942. During the five months ended May, production was 25.7% less than during the corresponding period of 1941.

Returns are now coming in from dairy farmers indicating the extent of their operations, manpower engaged and manpower serving in the defence forces. Manpower shortage is not the only problem faced by dairy farmers and it has been emphasized that policy can be formulated only when it is known what the production goals are. The main question to be settled is the quantity of exports required on British account.

BUTTER PRODUCTION - N.S.W. FACTORIES.

'000,000 lbs.

	Year	Nine months ended March.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
1938-39	113.8	83.8	12.6	11.4	9.7	10.8	12.1	11.9	10.5
1939-40	112.0	90.5	13.5	13.8	12.6	10.6	9.6	9.2	7.3
1940-41	103.7	83.1	8.2	11.4	14.5	12.8	11.7	8.7	6.8
1941-42	-	64.2	7.9	8.6	6.7	8.3	10.1	8.6	6.8

The quotas of butter and cheese for local consumption in July are 84% and 68% respectively compared with 85% and 63% in June, 1942.

Pay to suppliers of cream by certain North Coast butter factories was seasonally high in June at 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. of commercial butter made. This was $\frac{1}{4}$ d. above the June pay of the two previous years.

N.S.W. BUTTER - PAY TO CREAM SUPPLIERS

BY CERTAIN NORTH COAST FACTORIES.

Pence per lb. of commercial butter made.

Year	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Deferred Pay		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
				July-Dec.	Jan.-June						
1934-35*	8	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	9	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
1938-39	12	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{5}{16}$	1.06	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
1939-40	12	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	12	$\frac{3}{4}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{5}{8}$	12 $\frac{5}{8}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	13	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
1940-41	12 $\frac{5}{8}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	1	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{3}{8}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 $\frac{7}{8}$	13	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
1941-42	12 $\frac{5}{8}$	12 $\frac{5}{8}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	*	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	13 $\frac{1}{2}$

* Includes cartage (about $\frac{3}{8}$ d. per lb.) now paid by factory.

* Not available.

Fisheries. The output from fisheries in N.S.W. during 1940-41 was substantially less than during the previous year. The full effect of the requisitioning of trawlers and of the dry conditions inland is reflected in the figures. The strength of the demand for fish is shown by the high average net return per lb. obtained for the output in 1940-41 - 6d. per lb. as compared with 4.51d. in the previous year and 4.15d. in 1938-39.

N.S.W. - FISHERIES PRODUCTION.

Item	Unit of Production.	Production			Value of Production, £000		
		1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41
Trawled Fish	'000 lb.	14,089	12,387	8,043	}	.	.
Inshore Catch	'000 lb.	14,843	18,594	17,203		.	.
Inland "	'000 lb.	275	367	169		.	.
Total Fish	'000 lb.	29,207	31,349	25,416	557	588	635
Prawns	'000 lb.	1,157	1,073	847	34	40	42
Crayfish	'000 doz.	14	12	11	20	18	16
Crabs	'000 doz.	6	5	5	1	1	1
Oysters	'000 bags	43	41	43	108	102	107
Total	720	749	801

Coal. Official statements which have been made recently with regard to coal production and stocks are summarised below.

Among the largest consumers of coal are the Department of Railways and the Sydney County Council. The former last year entered into contracts to purchase the record amount of 1,712,000 tons. The County Council arranged for the supply of 1,349,000 tons over two years. In March, 1942 the Council reported stocks were falling owing to contractors' deliveries being behind schedule. In July it was reported that power house stocks were dangerously low and steps might be taken to purchase any coal available at reasonable prices.

In January and February production was less than consumption. In May, the average production in Australia, 450,000 tons a fortnight was about 50,000 tons below requirements. By July 500,000 tons a fortnight were being produced.

Statistics of coal reserves and output given by the Prime Minister are as follows:-

COAL RESERVES

<u>Date.</u>	<u>N.S.W.</u>	<u>VICTORIA</u>	<u>STH. AUST.</u>	<u>TOTAL, THREE STATES.</u>
		Thousands	Tons.	
26.4.41	946	293	229	1,468
4.10.41	841	243	187	1,271
18.4.42	968	289	219	1,476

COAL PRODUCTION, N.S.W.

Year 1940 - 9,550,000 tons.
 " 1941 - 11,668,000 tons.
 Six months ended April, 1942 - 5,765,000 tons.

Production in N.S.W. for the three months ended March, 1942 was 2,620,000 tons "out of a possible 3,198,000 tons." The difference according to Mr. Curtin, was due to:-

Strikes	-	283,000 tons
Absentecism	-	201,000 "
Unavoidable		
Hold-ups	-	94,000 "

This is exclusive of the loss of about 180,000 tons occasioned by the compulsory retirement of miners under the N.S.W. pensions scheme.

Gold Mining. The resources of the gold mining industry in N.S.W. and Queensland will be directed, as far as possible, into the production of base metals.

PART II. FINANCE AND TRADE.

GENERAL. For the first time since 1909-10 the accounts of every State showed a surplus.

Gross war expenditure of the Commonwealth Government in 1941-42 was £353 m. of which £34 m. was recovered from other administrations. Thus, net war expenditure was £319.4 m. of which £108.5 m. was met from revenue and £210.9 m. by borrowing. In the previous year (1940-41) war expenditure was £170.2 m. of which £68.7 was met from revenue.

The revenue in 1941-42 was estimated in December last at £196 m. including £12 m. extra taxation then imposed. Actual receipts were £210 m., customs revenue exceeding the estimate by £7 m. and income (incl. company) taxes by £2 m.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS.

	<u>1941-42^x</u>	<u>1940-41</u>
	£n.	£n.
<u>Revenue.</u>		
Customs and Excise	56.8	53.8
Sales Tax	26.8	19.8
Income & Company taxes	77.6	43.3
Post Office	21.6	19.1
Other	<u>27.2</u>	<u>14.5</u>
Total Revenue	<u>210.0</u>	<u>150.5</u>
<u>Expenditure (excl. Loan^o).</u>		
War (Excl. 1914-18 Services)	108.5	65.1
Other	<u>101.5</u>	<u>85.4</u>
	<u>210.0</u>	<u>150.5</u>

^x Approximate.

^o £210.9 m. expended from loan funds in 1941-42.

Import licenses will not be granted in future for a wide range of goods except in exceptional circumstances. The list includes copra, linseed oil, various classes of paper and paper board, insulating material, timber, surgical instruments, X-ray apparatus and various chemicals. The importation of goods of non-sterling origin is now confined to a limited list of essentials.

A proclamation issued on 9th July 1942 prohibits the export, without the consent of the Minister, of boot polish, silver, organic fertilisers and vegetables seeds. The imported raw materials used in the manufacture of boot polish are in short supply. Silver may be substituted in part for tin and other scarce base metals.

It is announced from New York that war risk insurance on shipments between U.S.A. and Australia, and between U.S.A. and New Zealand, via Panama, has increased from 15% to 20%.

The Basic Wage. The basic wage will be increased in all States from the first pay period in August. The adjustment will increase the basic wage (adult males - prevailing rate) for capital cities to 95/- per week in N.S.W., Victoria 94/-, Queensland 89/-, South Australia 91/-, Western Australia 89/- and Tasmania 91/-.

BASIC WAGE (PREDOMINANT RATE) IN FEDERAL AWARDS.

SYDNEY.

Amount per week - Adult Males.

Year	Quarterly Adjustment commencing:-			
	February	May	August	November
	Shillings per week.			
1939 ^x	81	82	81	82
1940	82	83	85	85
1941	88	88	89	89
1942	91	93	95	

^x Commencing one month later.

Retail Prices. The "C" Series Retail Prices Index Number for the five large cities and towns in N.S.W. increased from 1070 in March Quarter to 1096 in June Quarter. This was 7.6% above June Quarter, 1941.

"ALL ITEMS" RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

(Cost of food, groceries clothing, housing etc.)

Base:- 1923-27 = 1000. ϕ

City or Town	1938	1939	1940	1941				1942	
				Mar. Qr.	June Qr.	Sept. Qr.	Dec. Qr.	Mar. Qr.	June Qr.
N.S.W.-									
Sydney	913	936	974	1018	1019	1027	1048	1070	1096
Five Towns	911	933	972	1015	1017	1025	1045	1068	1094
Aust.-									
Six Capital Cities	897	920	957	995	1000	1009	1029	1053	1081

ϕ Weighted average of six capital cities.

Bond Yields & Share Prices. Though the prices of ordinary shares on the Sydney Exchange have weakened slightly since the high level of July 4th, 1942, the general tone of the market remains firm. The Sydney Stock Exchange index of the prices of ordinary shares (1934=100) was 105.35 on 4th July and 104.63 on 18th of the month.

The yield on Commonwealth bonds maturing in 5 to 10 years and subject to 1930 taxation rates fell again in June. Longer term bonds were steady at about the same level as in the two previous months.

YIELD ON COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT BONDS IN AUST.

Weighted Averages.

Compiled by the Commonwealth Bank.

Last Wednesday in Month.	Maturing in 5 years & under 10 yrs.		Maturing in 10 years and over. Taxed at 1930 rates.
	Taxed at full C/wealth rates	Taxed at 1930 C/wealth rates	
	%	%	%
1940 - June	3.13	3.24	3.29
1941 - June	2.98	2.88	3.04
- Dec.	3.22	2.94	3.09
1942 - Jan.	3.22	2.92	3.04
Feb.	3.23	3.07	3.16
Mar.	3.22	3.07	3.17
Apr.	3.22	3.00	3.13
May	3.23	2.95	3.12
June	3.22	2.93	3.13

Wholesale Trade. Average recorded sales at wholesale in 1941 were £19.08 m. monthly. For the four months ended April the value of sales averaged £19.20 m. monthly in 1942 compared with £17.5 m. monthly in the same period of 1941. It was in the latter half of last year that sales attained high levels. One factor helping to sustain the value of sales is the increase in prices.

WHOLESALE TRADE - N.S.W.

Sales by traders registered under Sales Tax Acts.

Total Taxable & Exempt Goods.

Month	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.
Jan.	14.2	13.2	16.3	15.8	18.69
Feb.	15.7	16.6	14.6	17.5	19.39
Mar.	15.8	15.8	17.0	17.4	19.53
Apr.	16.8	15.8	17.9	19.1	19.19
May	16.9	17.5	14.9	18.8	
June	15.0	14.9	17.1	21.8	
July	16.2	15.3	16.7	17.6	
Aug.	15.3	16.8	17.2	20.4	
Sept.	17.5	19.4	17.5	21.6	
Oct.	15.7	19.2	18.5	18.3	
Nov.	16.9	17.5	18.1	20.6	
Dec.	17.0	18.3	17.0	20.3	
Year	193.0	200.3	202.8	229.0	

Retail Trade. The intense activity in the retail trade in Sydney in March continued through April. There was a fairly substantial drain on stocks of piece goods and clothing but the value of all stocks in large Sydney stores at the end of April, 1942, was still 8.7% higher than a year ago. The volume of stocks would not show an excess of this extent over last year because prices have risen.

A check on retail sales was instituted in May by the quota system which preceded clothes rationing.

RETAIL TRADE - SYDNEY.Percentage increase from the corresponding period.

Period	Value of Net sales.	Value of Stock.	Wages & Salaries Paid.	Number of Employees.
1939 Jan.-Dec.	+ 2.4	+ 2.0	+ 2.6	+ 0.9
1940 Jan.-Dec.	+ 6.5	+ 17.0	+ 4.0	+ 1.9
1941 Jan.-Dec.	+ 14.6	+ 8.0	+ 9.0	+ 4.0
1941 - Oct.	+ 18.1	+ 13.6	+ 12.6	+ 6.9
Nov.	+ 7.4	+ 16.2	+ 8.8	+ 5.7
Dec.	+ 4.8	+ 21.5	+ 11.2	+ 3.7
1942 - Jan.	+ 5.5	+ 21.1	+ 8.3	+ 4.6
Feb.	+ 3.4	+ 19.2	+ 4.3	+ 0.7
Mar.	+ 25.9	+ 11.5	+ 4.6	+ 0.6
Apr.	+ 25.6	+ 8.7	+ 7.8	+ 0.1

Employment. Excluding rural and household domestic employees, the numbers employed in N.S.W. at the end of April, 1942, were 557,000 males and 222,200 females, a total of 779,200. This compares with 560,600 males and 220,200 females (total 780,800) in March. Male employment (other than rural) in N.S.W. has declined by 10,000 since January, 1942. Females employed have increased by 7,000 in the same period.

During May, 1942 Government and semi-Government employment in N.S.W. increased by 2,200 including 600 females.

/Factory.....

Factory Employment. It is estimated that 296,500 were employed in factories and workshops in N.S.W. in April, 1942. This compares with 273,700 a year earlier and 227,400 in April, 1939.

On the basis of the average number employed in factories in 1938-39 = 100, the index number for April 1942 was 130. In July, 1941, it was 124.

FACTORY EMPLOYMENT, N.S.W.
(Including Working Proprietors).

Thousands.

Month.	1938-39			1940-41			1941-42 ^(a)		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
July	165.2	60.4	225.6	180.0	66.0	246.0	209.2	75.1	284.3
Aug.	166.2	61.1	227.3	183.4	67.4	250.8	210.8	76.5	287.3
Sept.	166.3	61.8	228.1	185.6	69.1	254.7	214.9	77.1	292.0
Oct.	166.5	62.3	228.8	187.1	70.3	257.4	215.2	77.9	293.1
Nov.	166.6	62.4	229.0	191.3	71.4	262.7	216.5	78.6	295.1
Dec.	166.2	62.2	228.4	194.1	72.1	266.2	215.5	78.1	293.6
Jan.	164.0	57.6	221.6	193.4	69.4	262.8	214.8	77.3	292.1
Feb.	165.6	60.8	226.4	197.1	72.3	269.4	215.8	79.7	295.5
Mar.	167.0	62.0	229.0	202.3	73.9	276.2	215.8	80.8	296.6
Apr.	165.9	61.5	227.4	200.6	73.1	273.7	215.8	80.7	296.5
May	166.6	61.2	227.8	204.9	73.8	278.7			
June	166.9	60.4	227.3	207.6	74.2	281.8			

(a) Preliminary, subject to revision.

Unemployment. Men registered for employment at National Service Offices numbered 2,186 at the end of May, 1942. This was 502 less than at the end of April. Men registered for employment showed significant increases in the Newcastle, Maitland and Broken Hill areas. The chief districts to show decreases during the month were Metropolitan and "Cootamundra, Young, Wagga."

N.S.W. - UNEMPLOYED MALES REGISTERED, END OF MONTH.

District	March 1942	April 1942	May 1942
Metropolitan Areas (incl. Liverpool and Penrith)	1,340	1,543	839
Bathurst, Orange & Dubbo	250	304	261
Cootamundra, Young & Wagga	249	197	125
Albury & Broken Hill	68	147	274
Newcastle & Maitland	198	118	286
Tamworth & Inverell	87	121	142
All other areas	249	258	259
Total, N.S.W.	2,441	2,688	2,186

Fewer men were sent to employment by National Service Offices during May than in the previous month.

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICES, N.S.W.

Number of Persons sent to Employment.

	March, 1942			April, 1942.			May, 1942.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Adults	1,823	1,704	3,527	9,432	1,610	11,042	6,899	1,987	8,886
Minors	57	507	564	382	525	907	840	478	1,318
Total	1,880	2,211	4,091	9,814	2,135	11,949	7,739	2,465	10,204

⌘ First month of operation.

Manpower Notes. The process of combing establishments for manpower has resulted to date in the release of many men for war service. Groups of factories have been circularised. Employers are asked to classify their staffs under three headings:-

(1) Key men, indispensable to the organisation,
 (2) Employees who can be replaced by men outside the military classes 1, 2 and 3 or by women after a brief training period.

(3) Employees in military classes 1, 2 and 3 who can be released immediately.

Men in non-essential industries are urged to transfer voluntarily to war work or essential industries.

Garages are being classified into three groups. The first will be protected undertakings who must concentrate on servicing vehicles in high priority classes. The second group will be those operated by working principals who are exempt from military service. The remainder will retain their present status and their employees will be subject to call-up.

About one-third of the 318,000 persons which the Government aims to transfer to the Forces or war work by December, 1942 have already been obtained. During the last three months many men have been called up and a large proportion of them came from essential industries. In the future, the more difficult transfers from non-essential industry to war work will play an increasing part in the fulfilling of the Government's objective.

The existence of an unsatisfied demand for labour is the reason why only 50 people have been paid unemployment allowances. These are available to workers displaced by the Government's rationalisation schemes and unable to get other jobs quickly.

The drive to place 80,000 women in work in Australia is gathering impetus. Since January, 1942, 12,000 women have been placed in N.S.W. by National Service Offices.

The Civil register revealed that in Australia there were 260,000 males over 16 years of age not gainfully employed. Of these 12,500 aged 16 - 17 years were students. Another 167,000 were over 60 years old. An appeal has been made by the Director-General of Manpower to retired men to take up war work.

Today there are about 15,000 men in the Commonwealth who "might be properly described as unemployed". This is easily the lowest figure on record.

The Advisory War Council has approved of a large expansion in aircraft production. This is regarded as the best guarantee of maintenance of supplies of new 'planes.

A factory in N.S.W. has produced its 1000th trainer aircraft.

The facilities for training R.A.A.F. ground staff technicians have been expanded by the opening of a technical school in a large provincial city.

Men have been withdrawn from ship construction for urgent repair work but it is hoped to resume the building programme. Eleven standard ships have been ordered. Components are being produced in all States. Over 300 men are engaged by a State authority on the building of a ship in N.S.W. to the order of the Australian Shipping Board.

In the future, Australian war factories should prove to be a tremendous contribution to industrial development and enable the efficient production of civilian requirements in larger quantities than were previously obtainable, said the Minister for Munitions on 8th July. He forecast that the production of munitions in Australia would be continued after the war on a scale at least one-third that of wartime in order to provide protection against a future emergency.

Emergency work carried out in 1941-42 by State authorities included the linking of the Port Kembla and Burrinjuck electricity systems.

The Civil Construction Corps of the Allied Works Council is enrolling 1,000 carpenters from N.S.W. for work in Queensland.

A waterside employment committee for the port of Sydney has been set up.

Slightly more than 15% of the staff engaged at a large munition factory since last January has been found to have been drawn from primary industries.

The deferment of call-up for the Army or Allied Works granted to men registering for seasonal rural work will be withdrawn unless the men report for work. A warning has been issued to about 650 sugar cane-cutters. About 1,000 are still required.

It has been found impossible to obtain substitute labour for shearers in the Army. Men still in N.S.W. who have had at least three months' training, who are not officers or key men and who are not serving at certain battle stations will be released.

A conference will be held in Sydney from August 5th on Women's Land Army organisation in all States. Local committees, on which the local agricultural instructors will be represented, are being set up in country districts of N.S.W. In the first instance they will be concerned with organising part-time and seasonal assistance in rural work. Use may be made of volunteers willing to spend vacations doing light farm work.